

- Milwaukee Naturalist, I. No. 9, Sept., 1886.  
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## GENERAL NOTES.

Occurrence of Cory's Shearwater (*Puffinus borealis*) and Several Species of Jaegers in Large Numbers in the Vicinity of Gayhead, Mass., during the Autumn of 1886.—In the early part of the summer of 1886, both mackerel and bluefish were very scarce near the coast of the Middle States, and it was ascertained that they were busily engaged in feeding on a small white fish, three or four inches long, occurring in immense numbers, 150 to 200 miles off the coast. This fish proves to be young sea herring (*Clupea vulgaris*). Towards the end of September this herring came inshore in large numbers, from Point Judith to Buzzard's Bay and Vineyard Sound, where they remained until the end of October, and perhaps still later. They were accompanied by mackerel of unusually large size and fatness, which furnished for many weeks an ample supply to fishing crafts of various kinds, and they were captured, for the most part, with the hook and line.

With the herring came also enormous numbers of *Puffinus* and *Stercorarius*, the former proving to be almost exclusively the *Puffinus borealis* Cory, with a few *Puffinus stricklandi*. None of the *P. major* were seen.

The *Stercorarius* consisted principally of *S. parasiticus* and *S. pomarinus*; these in every imaginable stage of coloration; some being entirely dusky and others in various grades of immaturity; very few, if any specimens in full plumage being seen.

The Shearwaters occurred in flocks of perhaps from fifty to two or three hundred, the bunches being generally found quietly resting on the water and feeding, while swimming, upon the herrings that were so abundant in the vicinity. They were very tame, but approach to them could be best made by a steam launch, which would almost run over them before they would start to fly. A dozen birds were killed by the discharge of two guns from a launch. About a hundred specimens were secured, and thousands could easily have been killed if necessary.

When last heard from, towards the beginning of November, the birds were still with the herrings, and were found very abundantly off Gay Head, Menemsha Bight, Cuttyhunk, and elsewhere, both in Vineyard Sound and Buzzard's Bay.

The Jaegers were shy, and were generally killed singly as they flew past. They did not seem to associate closely with the Shearwaters.—S. F. BAIRD. *Washington, D. C.*

*Phœnicopterus ruber* as a South Carolina Bird.—In 'The Auk' for July, 1886. Mr. Loomis gave a short account of the capture of this species near Georgetown. As I am able to give a full account of its capture, I trust that the following will prove acceptable. Learning from my friend Dr. G. E. Manigault, that W. St. Julien Mazyck, Esq., captured the bird, I wrote to him for a full account of its capture. Mr. Mazyck very kindly wrote me, under date of November 22, as follows:—"The fall of the year 1876 was stormy, with much rain. Somewhere between the 10th and 16th of September there was a gale of wind. A day or so after the gale, Mr. B. H. Ward observed a large, strange bird on De Bardien Island, which he determined to watch and make an effort to capture. Inadvertently mentioning what he had seen, one of his neighbors the next day killed the bird, and brought it to Pawley Island, when I identified it as the Flamingo.

"That night, several hours after it was killed, I skinned such parts as I judged would be acceptable to Dr. Manigault. The legs and other long bones were badly shattered by the turkey shot, and with no experience I made a poor job of the bird. The heat and moisture of the weather softened it so much, Dr. Manigault wrote, that he could do nothing with it. He, however, identified it as a young male.

"The bird was evidently lost in the storm and driven to this shore, where he remained four or five days before being killed."—ARTHUR T. WAYNE. *Charleston, S. C.*

Occurrence of the Florida Gallinule at Springfield, Mass.—A Florida Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) was taken October 1, 1884, at a point on the Connecticut River about five miles below Springfield. The bird was first noticed in the water close to the bank, in the act of diving. I immediately went to the spot with a dog, who dashed in where the bird disappeared, when it immediately came to the surface and instantly took to wing and was shot. A companion then informed me that it was similar to a bird that he had recently taken. Early in September, 1886, I was told that a strange bird, "like a very large Rail," had been seen in the reeds in a set-back, near the mouth of the Agawam River, which enters into the Connecticut directly opposite this city. On the 14th of September, upon going to this place, I at once succeeded in getting this bird up, but in shooting missed it. It alighted about a hundred yards up the set-back, where, after some search, it arose from some tall grass within a few feet of where I stood and was killed.

Four days later (September 18th), at very nearly the same place where